

82D CONGRESS
1st Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT
No. 733

NICHOLAS GEORGE STRANGAS

JULY 19, 1951.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. FEIGHAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 688]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 688) for the relief of Nicholas George Strangas, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to Nicholas George Strangas. The bill also provides for an appropriate quota deduction and for the payment of the required visa fee and head tax.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The beneficiary of the bill is a 37-year-old native and citizen of Greece who last arrived in the United States as a visitor on September 19, 1946, to pursue postgraduate studies. He attended Harvard University for 1 year and Northeastern University in Boston, Mass., for 2 years. He resides with and is supported by a brother in Boston, Mass., who is a citizen of the United States.

A letter dated October 25, 1950, to the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, from the Deputy Attorney General with reference to H. R. 8757, which was a bill introduced in the Eighty-first Congress for the relief of the same alien, reads as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL,
Washington 25, October 25, 1950.

HON. EMANUEL CELLER,
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (H. R. 8757) authorizing the naturalization of Nicholas George Strangas.

The proposed legislation would provide that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, at any time with 1 year after the date of its enactment Nicholas George Strangas may be naturalized as a citizen of the United States by taking the naturalization oath of allegiance before any court having jurisdiction of the naturalization of aliens.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department disclose that the alien named above is a native and citizen of Greece, having been born in Megalopolis, Arcardia, Greece, on August 28, 1913. Coming from that country, he arrived at the port of Chicago, Ill., via airplane, on September 19, 1946, when he was admitted under section 3 (2) of the Immigration Act of 1924 for a period of 6 months, to pursue postgraduate studies. He received four extensions of his temporary admission, but a fifth application for an extension was denied, whereupon he was advised that he should depart from the United States not later than April 2, 1950. Proceedings to enforce his departure, however, were ordered deferred pending congressional action on the instant bill.

The files further reflect that Mr. Strangas, who had received a master of arts degree from Athens University in Greece before coming to the United States, has attended school in this country for 3 years since his admission, 1 year at Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., and 2 years at Northeastern University, Boston, Mass. He completed his postgraduate course in September of 1949. Mr. Strangas entered the United States allegedly as a student only, and was not granted permanent residence by such admission, though he was granted four extensions of his stay to permit him to pursue to a conclusion his original stated purpose for entering this country, that of taking postgraduate work. Instead of departing voluntarily at the expiration of that time, he has taken steps which are inconsistent with his declared intention. His application for adjustment of his status under section 4 of the Displaced Persons Act of 1948, after a hearing hereunder, was denied by the Immigration and Naturalization Service on November 8, 1949, on the ground that he is not a displaced person within the meaning of section 4 of the act. The alien stated that he is being supported by his brother, James Salas, of Boston, Mass., and that his brother had also given him an outright gift of \$10,000 in stocks, from which he receives dividends of approximately \$600 a year.

The quota for Greece, to which the alien is chargeable, is oversubscribed for many years and an immigration visa is not readily obtainable. Under existing law he would not be eligible to proceed toward naturalization until he has been admitted to the United States for permanent residence. The record in his case does not present any facts which would warrant granting him exemption from the general immigration and naturalization laws. The enactment of the proposed legislation would encourage other aliens to circumvent the immigration laws of the United States and would constitute the grant of an unjustified preference over aliens who comply with the existing laws and procedures.

Accordingly, the Department of Justice is unable to recommend enactment of this bill.

Yours sincerely,

PEYTON FORD,
Deputy Attorney General.

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., the author of an identical bill introduced in the Senate, has submitted the following statement in connection with the case:

STATEMENT REGARDING NICHOLAS GEORGE STRANGAS

Applicant

Nicholas George Strangas, age 36, male, single native and citizen of Greece; presently residing at 169 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Family history

Applicant was born August 28, 1913 at Megalopolis, Greece, the son of George and Demetra Strangas, both now deceased, formerly natives and citizens of Greece. His married sisters, Anastasia Pmipma and Evangelia Tsoulis, natives and citizens of Greece, reside in Megalopolis, Greece. The applicant's brother, James Salas, a naturalized citizen of the United States, resides in Boston, Mass., and owns one of New England's largest restaurants, the New Adams House, 533 Washington Street, Boston, Mass. He is a very substantial citizen of Boston and has achieved an outstanding reputation as a businessman and in the field of charitable endeavor.

Applicant's residence in the United States

The applicant arrived in the United States at Chicago, Ill., on September 19, 1946 by airplane (TWA) and was admitted for a temporary period of 6 months as nonimmigrant, class 2 of section 3 of the Immigration Act of 1924. He has obtained extensions of his stay in the United States, the last one to expire June 19, 1949.

Since September 19, 1946, he has resided continuously with his brother in Boston, Mass.

Applicant's occupation

The applicant graduated from the University of Athens in 1934; and from March 1939 to September 1946 he was a professor of mathematics and astronomy at the gymnasiums of Megalopolis and Athens in Greece.

Immediately following his arrival in the United States, he enrolled in October 1946 in the Orthological Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., where he studied until September 16, 1947, when he transferred to the Northeastern University School of Business, Boston, Mass., where he has been taking a full course of studies. He is not otherwise occupied or employed in the United States and has never deviated from the primary purpose of his vocation as a professor.

Because of his status as a visitor he has been unable to solicit or take proffered offers to teach in the United States. He has, as of June 2, 1949, been fully approved by the Department of Education, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for a teaching position, and in view of his previous teaching experience, he has been assured of every consideration, provided, of course, that he is eligible to take employment as a permanent resident. He established with definiteness his qualifications to teach at college, normal school, or preparatory school, the following subjects: Advanced mathematics, astronomy, economics, and business administration, together with classical Greek. Because of the curtailment of those attending colleges during the war years and the general upheaval created by war conditions, there exists in Massachusetts a substantial need of male teachers, especially those with previous experience.

Applicant's residence in Greece

Prior to the applicant's admission to the United States in September 1946, he resided in Athens, Greece, from 1930 to 1946 and prior thereto in Megalopolis, Greece.

During the period of April 20, 1934, to July 10, 1935, and from October 28, 1940, to July 30, 1941, he served in the Greek Army, maintaining, however, during this latter period his status as a professor.

The applicant first considered migrating to the United States after the death of his brother, Constantine Strangas, on April 6, 1946, as the result of tortures and hardship suffered at the hands of the Communist rebels. The applicant's mother had died during the German occupation of Greece. Left practically alone, he was invited to visit his brother, James Salas, a citizen of the United States.

In the early summer of 1946, he decided definitely to visit here with his brother. Since his arrival, because of constant study of English and American ideas and

principles, it is his foremost desire to remain in this country with his brother and to take up anew his teaching profession.

SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that Nicholas George Strangas, through legislative action, be permitted to reside in the United States permanently. He is an outstanding scholar and has qualities of personality and character which indicate that he will reflect credit upon the United States if admitted to permanent residency. His educational qualifications, his knowledge of Greek and English, etc., make it apparent that he can be a useful citizen. His reputation for hostility toward the Communist cause is well known among Greek-Americans. His brother's position in the business world forms a practical guaranty that under no circumstances will Mr. Strangas become a public charge, there is no doubt that Nicholas George Strangas will reflect credit upon the United States if he is permitted to remain in the United States as a result of legislative action.

An identical bill passed the Senate on June 21, 1951.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in this case, is of the opinion that H. R. 688 should be enacted and it accordingly recommends that the bill do pass.

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